



**Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
June 8, 2010**

Attendees –

Board Members Present: Glenn Dresner, Jodie Douglass, Robert Goehring, Ginny Grant, Jane Gray, Kathy Hulfish, Marlene Shobe, Peg Turrentine, and Marilyn Almon

Board Members Absent: Barbara Brannon, Brenda Dresner, Nat Gruesen, and Gwen Heck

Extension Service Master Gardener Coordinators Present:

CEA—Horticulture – Shari Koch

Master Gardener Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

Quorum Present? Yes

Call to Order – Jane Gray called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes – After a motion by Peg Turrentine and a second by Glenn Dresner, the minutes of the May 11, 2010, Board meeting were approved by all.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President – Jane Gray

- Jane expressed her appreciation and thanks to those who expended the extra effort to coordinate the June 5th garden party.
- Jodie commented that the budgeted amount for paper goods would soon be exceeded.
- It was reiterated that when expenditures will exceed the budgeted amount, Board approval must be requested for the additional spending rather than asking the Board to increase the budgeted amount.

Vice President – Glenn Dresner

- No report.

Secretary – Gwen Heck

- Absent; no report.

Treasurer – Peg Turrentine

- Report is attached to the minutes.
- Peg noted that the budget amount for Citrus on the financial report should be \$400.

Past President – Nat Gruesen

- Absent; no report.

Awards – Jodie Douglass

- No report.
- The membership will receive questionnaires regarding preferences for the year end awards and dinner.

Communications – Robert Goehring

- Report is attached to the minutes.

Community Relations – Brenda Dresner

- Absent.
- June monthly program speaker will be Billy Cox from Retreat Hill Winery in Navasota.
- Jodie commented that the location for the next Green Thumb series will be Parkway United Methodist Church, located at Grand Parkway and New Territory Boulevard, Sugar Land.
- Ginny inquired about the possibility of future scheduling on the east side of Fort Bend County, such as in Stafford or Missouri City. Jodie requested that Ginny provide a list of suggested locations in that area to her.

Fundraising – Barbara Brannon

- Absent; no report.

Landscape – Kathy Hulfish and Marlene Shobe, Co-Directors

- Report is attached to the minutes. Help will be enlisted to assist Kathy and Marlene with the monthly reports and to provide additional perspective.
- It was suggested that a quarterly meeting of the garden chairs be held.

Member Relations – Marilyn Almon

- Report is attached to the minutes.

Youth Activities – Ginny Grant

- Kids Kamp has 25 registered to attend as of this date. A few Master Gardeners from Orange County will be observing the Kamp operation in preparation for their own youth camp. This year's theme will be habitat and the kids will complete a community service project—building birdhouses to be used in community gardens and in the FBCMG gardens. Cliff and Glenn are preparing birdhouse kits to be assembled at Kamp.

- The Plants in the Classroom group is working with Fort Bend ISD on a September in-service for teachers.

Standing Committee Reports:

Governance Committee

- Discussion tabled until the July Board meeting.

Extension Service Advisor Reports:

CEA – Horticulture – Shari Koch

- Shari repeated Jane's compliments on the garden party.
- A citrus greening specialist training will be held on July 29-30 in Fort Bend County and will be partially grant funded.
- Peg made a motion, seconded by Jodie and approved by all, that \$1,500 be allocated to pay for meals at the training which would later be reimbursed by A&M.
- Master Gardeners are responsible for seeking information about upcoming events rather than expecting to receive the information from FBCMG.

Master Gardener Coordinator, Fort Bend County – Margo McDowell

- Fall 2010 Class: Additional advertising will begin soon for the class which begins on August 11 at 9 am. So far, 12 to 13 people are enrolled.
- An evening class is scheduled to begin on January 19th.

Old Business:

Garden Party Evaluation

- Glenn commented that no commissioners attended and it would be nice to build a better rapport with them.
- Possible date change in the future, but keep it as an annual event.
- Margo suggested a Master Gardener declaration day.
- Some may have been deterred from attending since it was also a Master Gardener reunion.
- Marilyn suggested expanding to include demonstrations which would add an educational component to the event.

Action Item Spreadsheet—items dated 6/8/2010

- Create video, gardening, and fundraising equipment inventory: Margo—in progress.
- Procedures for quarterly financial review of FBCMG records: Peg—completed.
- Date for appreciation dinner for Heidi—closed out.
- Strategic planning committee progress on opinion surveys: Ginny—will resume after Kids Kamp.
- Install fencing around the perimeter of the gardens: Marlene has requested a third estimate.

- Install enclosures for compost, mulch, and crushed granite near the greenhouse: Marlene and Kathy—tabled until after the garden party.

New Business:

Save the Date—August 3rd

- Jane requested that Board members attend a goal setting and planning meeting at 2 p.m. at Fulshear Creek Crossing, to be followed by dinner at Karl's at the Riverbend at 6 p.m.

Jane adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. in the annex kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Almon, Member Relations Director
Substituting for Gwen Heck
Secretary, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.
7/7/2010

Communications Report
June 2010
Submitted by Robert Goehring, Communications Director

The following information is humbly provided.

The Grapevine

Nothing to report

Publicity

Nothing to report.

Website

Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 June 2010: **65,523**

Visitors in June 2010: **14,459**

Blog

Visitors from 1 January 2010 to 1 June 2010: **24,876**

Visitors in June 2010: **5,665**

Mailing Lists

Electronic Newsletter (Public); Members as of 1 June 2010: **21**

Electronic Newsletter (Entomology); Members as of 1 June 2010: **13**

Facebook

Number of members as of 1 June 2010: **46**

Forum

Number of registered members as of 1 June 2010: **6**

Should you have any questions, comments, or recommendations concerning the content, look, or usefulness of our Website, Blog, Mailing Lists, Facebook, or Forum, please do not hesitate to email me.

Landscape Committee Report

Prepared by Kathy Hulfish & Cathy Schneider

June 8, 2010

Berry Patch – Blueberries are getting larger by the day. The blackberries are huge! Helping hands are needed to keep the Berry Patch weeded. If you need hours, come on out!

Butterfly Habitat – Passion vine is stunning and is in full bloom.

Circle Gardens – The enormous fringe tree was pruned and is looking very shapely now. Daisies are blooming.

Citrus Orchard – Purchase to finish the pathway was approved at the May board meeting.

Cottage Garden – Echinacea with its large purple flower is blooming as is cheerful Turnera (yellow butter cup). Dicliptera is covered with orange buds ready to burst into bloom.

Earth-Kind® Trial Garden - “Carefree Beauty” has loads of rose hips.

Everyone’s Garden – Take a look at the pomegranate tree in full bloom!

Front Yard – The salvia is blooming.

Greenhouse – When we visited, there was a propagation class being held.

Herb Knot Garden – Little Gem magnolias are blooming – such a distinctive scent. At the back of the garden, the cardoon is covered with purple blooms. On the right side, a row of blooming lavender sweetly scents the air.

Japanese Garden – Take the time to admire the statue, standing on dark stones interplanted with variegated greens. The new flagstone bed by the faucet looks great!

Outdoor Classroom – No report.

Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) – Nat Gruesen and Ed Plant are the new contacts.

Rose Garden – The yellow cannas, Mexican hat, and gaillardia are all blooming. The dark purple leaf cannas have buds.

Texas Natives – A glorious sight with so many colorful plants!

Trees across the Grounds – The gorgeous cassia tree is in full bloom, covered with yellow flowers.

Vegetable Gardens – Tomatoes had their first harvest, as did the eggplants. The bell peppers are mysteriously disappearing. Squash and zucchini are on their way, and the cantaloupe plants are blooming and starting to creep through the bed.

Vineyard – Bunches of grapes are on the vines!

Water Garden – The red cannas are in bloom now, and the plumerias behind the pond have new growth and bunches of pink flowers.

Way Garden –It's good to see that the variegated hibiscus plants are coming back. The variegated grass is blooming, as is the pineapple sage. On the driveway the daylilies, vitex and magnolia are blooming. Crinum has huge buds.

Yardwise/Compost – There are new layers of fresh soil on top of the wire bins and the mulch is cooking!

Member Relations Report

June 2010

Submitted by Marilyn Almon

Membership

Four Fall 2009 graduates have been added to the membership roster. One late-renewing recertified member has been added. Total membership is currently 170.

Field Trip to Loris Garrett's Daylily Garden and The Arbor Gate

On the morning of May 17th, nine Master Gardeners and two guests enjoyed visiting Loris Garrett's amazing daylily garden. After lunch at the Whistle Stop Tea Room in Tomball, members received a tour of The Arbor Gate Nursery, conducted by the owner, Beverly Welch.

Master Gardener Reunion and Garden Party

Though no official count was taken, it appeared that approximately 50-60 Master Gardeners and guests attended the event on Saturday, June 5th. When everyone gathered in and around the Outdoor Classroom, Margo introduced the former Master Gardeners in attendance and Jane welcomed everyone to the gardens. Thanks go to Brenda for planning the party, to those who worked behind the scenes setting up and cleaning up, to those who served refreshments throughout the morning, and to all who labored diligently to prepare the gardens for the gathering.

Cumulative Master Gardener Roster

One of the benefits of holding the reunion was that all of the previous years' membership rosters have now been consolidated into one workable cumulative roster of current and former members.